

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

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INR:RBARAZ
C:JDOBBINS
S/S: PSHANKLE

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O R 170026Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CSCE, PARM

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBMS: REPORTED WP MANEUVER TROOP
-- CEILINGS

REF: USNATO 5484, DTG 081701Z OCT 75

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

1. FRG INFORMATION IS ONLY SOURCE WE HAVE TO DATE FOR REPORT THAT WP SUPREME COMMAND HAS ORDERED A 24,000 TROOP CEILING FOR MANEUVERS PRESUMABLY TO KEEP BELOW THE CSCE "THRESHOLD" OF 25,000 TROOPS, ABOVE WHICH MANEUVERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE NOTIFIED IN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. WHILE WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT INFORMATION THAT WOULD APPLY DIRECTLY TO FRG REPORT, WE QUESTION WHETHER SOVIETS ARE LIKELY TO HAVE REORIENTED TRAINING PATTERNS MERELY TO AVOID CSCE NOTIFICATION OBLIGATIONS.

2. MORE LIKELY EXPLANATION, IN OUR VIEW, IS THAT WARSAW PACT HAS SIMPLY NOT PLANNED ANY LARGE SCALE MANEUVERS FOR 1975 AUTUMN SEASON, AND THAT TRAINING REQUIREMENTS ARE BEING FULFILLED THROUGH SEPARATE MANEUVERS BELOW THE 25,000-TROOP THRESHOLD.

3. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE TREND TOWARDS SMALLER WARSAW PACT MANEUVERS WHICH WE HAVE NOTED OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. FOR INSTANCE, NO WARSAW PACT GROUND FORCE MANEUVER IN 1973, 1974 OR TO DATE IN 1975 MATCHED EXERCISE SHIELD/72 IN MAGNITUDE.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, MISSION MAY CITE RECENT INTERESTING BUT ISOLATED CONVERSATION BETWEEN U.S. OFFICIAL AND EAST EUROPEAN MILITARY OFFICIAL, IN WHICH LATER STATED THAT "WP PHILOSOPHY ON MANEUVERS AND EXERCISES DOES NOT CALL FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF TROOPS AS DO NATO REFORGER AND EXPRESS EXERCISES."

5. AS APPROPRIATE, MISSION MAY ALSO DRAW ON REPORT OF U.S. ATTACHES' CONVERSATIONS IN MOSCOW 091534Z OCT, SUBJECT TO CAVEATS IN FINAL PARA OF THAT CABLE, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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NOTE THAT WE ARE NOT ABLE TO GIVE PRECISE NUMERICAL ESTIMATES FOR WARSAW PACT MANEUVERS THAT HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN EAST GERMANY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND HUNGARY SO FAR THIS FALL. WE WILL NATURALLY REMAIN ON THE ALERT FOR ANY SIGNS THAT SOVIETS ARE ARBITRARILY DIVIDING UP LARGE SCALE MANEUVERS INTO SMALLER SEGMENTS IN A MANNER INCONSISTENT WITH SPIRIT OF CSCE FINAL ACT, BUT AS OF NOW WE DO NOT HAVE ANY GROUNDS FOR SUCH AN ASSERTION.

6. FYI. SHOULD OTHERS REFER TO UK INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE
FURNISHED TO POLADS THROUGH IMS LAST APRIL, TO EFFECT
THAT 25,000-TROOP CEILING WOULD YIELD OVER 20 NOTIFICA-
TIONS PER YEAR FROM WARSAW PACT, YOU SHOULD STATE THAT
WE ESTIMATE THAT TROOP TOTALS HAVE ACTUALLY EXCEEDED
25,000 IN ONLY A FEW CASES EACH YEAR. END FYI.

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